

Claims:-

1. A television system including a broadcast data receiver (BDR) for receiving broadcast data from a remote location via cable, satellite or terrestrial means and processing said data, said processed data including video data for display on a display screen (2) connected to or forming part of said BDR and characterised in that a plurality of different video display formats are provided for user selection on the display screen (2) and wherein upon selection of a particular video display format a preview of the resulting video display is displayed in a window (6) on the display screen.
2. A television system according to claim 1 characterised in that the window (6) in which the preview is shown is displayed over a part of a video display currently being broadcast on a user selected channel.
3. A television system according to claim 1 characterised in that the video content (7) on the display screen (2) behind the preview window (6) remains unchanged following selection of a particular video display format in the preview window (6).
4. A television system according to claim 2 characterised in that the dimensions of the preview window (6) are adjustable by the user.
5. A television system according to claim 1 characterised in that each video display format alters the size and/or shape of the resulting video display in the preview window (6).

6. A television system according to claim 1 characterised in that the preview of the selected display comprises the selected format as applied to any or any combination of the video data currently being broadcast on a user-selected channel, a broadcaster selected channel, a default video clip, a user selected video clip or a blank screen.
7. A television system according to claim 1 characterised in that the plurality of different video display formats are provided in a drop down menu (8).
8. A television system according to claim 7 characterised in that the drop down menu (8) is provided in a viewing preference screen for selection therefrom.
9. A television system according to claim 1 characterised in that the different video display formats include any or any combination of a normal (4:3) display, a widescreen (16:9) display, picture handling display, pass through display, centre cut-out display or letterbox display.
10. A television system according to claim 1 characterised in that the format of the video display on the display screen (2) returns to a default video display format each time the television system is switched off and subsequently switched on again.
11. A television system according to claim 1 characterised in that the format of the video display on the display screen (2) returns to a default video display format after a pre-determined period of time.
12. A television system according to claim 1 characterised in that the format of the video display

selected by the user is maintained on all video displays until a different video display format is selected.

13. A television system according to claim 1 characterised in that in addition to the different video display formats, the user can select the video display to be in a RGB or composite video display format.
14. A broadcast data receiver (BDR) for receiving broadcast data from a remote location via cable, satellite or terrestrial means and processing said data, said processed data including video data for display on a display screen (2) connected to or forming part of said BDR and characterised in that a plurality of different video display formats are provided for user selection on the display screen (2) and wherein upon selection of a particular video display format a preview of the resulting video display is displayed in a window (6) on the display screen (2).
15. An electronic programme guide (EPG) for display on a display screen (2) of a television system, said EPG displaying data relating to one or more channels and/or programmes for broadcasting at that time or in the future, said EPG having a menu (8) including a number of user-selectable preferences and characterised in that the user-selectable preferences include a plurality of different video display formats for user selection on the display screen (2) and wherein upon selection of a particular video display format a preview of the resulting video display is displayed in a window (6) on the display screen of the EPG.